

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 142163

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R 012246Z JUL 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
USSAGE NKP
CINCPAC
USDEL JEC PARIS
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
COGARD
XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 142163

COGARD FOR POLAD

.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: JULY 1 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. IN SHORT ARTICLE CAPTIONED "COMPLAINT ON LASKY IS UPHELD" WP (P. 14) REPORTS NATIONAL NEWS COUNCIL ACTION AGAINST VICTOR LASKY AND NANA FOR LASKY'S TAKING 20,000 DOLS FROM CREEP. TUCKED INTO ARTICLE IS FOLLOWING OTHERWISE UNEXPLAINED ONE-LINER: "IN ANOTHER ACTION, THE COUNCIL CRITICIZED THE NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE FOR ITS HANDLING OF A REPORT UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 142163

ON THE EFFECTS OF THE USE OF HERBICIDES BY US FORCES IN VIETNAM."

2. WP (SAIGON) REPORTS SVN DRIVE TO REGAIN POSITION

ON CAPITAL'S NORTHERN DEFENSE LINE STALLED BY STIFF RESISTANCE AFTER THREE DAYS OF HEAVY FIGHTING. BOTH SIDES REPORTEDLY UNDER ORDERS TO CONTROL "AT ALL COSTS" BASE OVERRUN BY NVN SIX WEEKS AGO DURING ATTACK NEAR BEN CAT.

3. MME. BINH ARRIVED IN DAR ES SALAAM SATURDAY HEADING PRG DELEGATION FOR TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF RULING TANZANIA POLITICAL PARTY (AFP, WP).

4. GVN TOURIST DIRECTORATE ASKS IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS TO ALLOW TOURISTS TO ENTER VN FOR 15 DAYS WITHOUT VISA (UPI, NYT).

5. US GROUP OF ABOUT 15 -- MOSTLY STUDENTS -- VISITS NATIONS THAT MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NVN SEEKING TO MEET GOVT. OFFICIALS, ASKING THAT THEY BRING PRESSURE ON HANOI FOR FULL ACCOUNTING OF US MIAS. SUN'S ETTLIN WRITES ABOUT YOUNGEST OF GROUP -- 17-YEAR-OLD BALTIMORE HIGH-SCHOOLER WHOSE TRIP BEING SPONSORED BY MARYLAND MIA CHAPTER, WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AMERICAN LEGION POSTS AND PRIVATE DONATIONS. NONE MAKING MONTH-LONG EUROPE/ASIA TOUR IS RELATED TO ANY MIA; THEY WERE CHOSEN BECAUSE OF INDEPENDENT INTEREST IN CAUSE, ETTLIN SAYS. ADDS THAT NEGLECT OF ISSUE AT HOME AND FEELING THAT US "IS DOING LITTLE TO PROVE CONCLUSIVELY" ONE WAY OR THE OTHER WHETHER MIAS ARE DEAD OR ALIVE WAS REASON FOREIGN LOBBYING EXPEDITION WAS LAUNCHED.

THAILAND

6. REUTER REPORTS PP MIL SOURCES DISCLOSING MONDAY THAT THAILAND HAS CLOSED ITS FRONTIER WITH CAMBODIA AND SENT NAVAL AND TROOP REINFORCEMENTS TO SOUTHERN BORDER AND COASTAL AREA BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 142163

MOVE WAS TO PREVENT CAMBODIAN INSURGENTS INFILTRATING THAILAND FROM KOH KONG PROVINCE, SOURCES SAID. IN BANGKOK, FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS SAID THEY HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF BORDER CLOSURE OR TROOP MOVEMENTS.

CHINA

7. REUTER'S SHARP, IN PEKING, SAYS THAT ACCORDING TO CHINESE LEADERS QUOTED BY DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, LONG-DELAYED NPC WILL NOT MEET UNTIL DRIVE TO ERADICATE RIGHT-WING INFLUENCES HAS REACHED FINAL DECISIVE PHASE. CHINESE LEADERS SAID CONGRESS WILL HAVE

TO WAIT UNTIL BASIC ISSUES OF CAMPAIGN HAVE BEEN RESOLVED AND CAMPAIGN'S FUTURE COURSE CLARIFIED. SOURCES ADDED THAT PRC LEADERS HAD GIVEN QUALIFIED BLESSING TO PEKING POSTER CAMPAIGN. LEADERS QUOTED SAYING CRITICISMS WERE VALUABLE, EVEN THOUGH SOME WERE NOT CORRECT, AND ALL CRITICISMS WOULD BE ALLOWED SO LONG AS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST SOCIALISM.

8. PEOPLE'S DAILY CCP ANNIVERSARY EDITORIAL JULY 1 STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF PARTY IN MIDST OF SHARP ATTACKS ON SOME PARTY LEADERS. URGING PARTY LEADERS TO HEED VOICE OF PEOPLE, EDITORIAL ADDED THAT CRITICISM VIA WALL POSTERS "DOES NOT IN ANY WAY IMPLY THAT PARTY LEADERSHIP MAY BE WEAKENED." AT SAME TIME, NEW POSTER CLAIMED PARTY STILL HARBORED REPRESENTATIVES OF US, CHIANG KAI-SHEK AND USSR. IN CONTEXT OF THESE ATTACKS, PD EDITORIAL SEEMED CLEAR DEFENSE OF INSTITUTION OF CCP AS DISTINCT FROM OFFICIALS OF THE INSTITUTION (WP FROM PEKING DISPATCHES). REUTER PEKING NOTES NCNA BROADCAST EDITORIAL SUNDAY (NYT).

9. HONAN PROVINCE REPORTS RECORD WHEAT HARVEST THIS SUMMER, DESPITE ONE OF WORST DROUGHTS FOR QUARTER CENTURY RAVAGING NORTH AND CENTRAL CHINA. NO EXACT FIGURES GIVEN, AND REPORT SAYS SUCCESS IS LARGELY DUE TO ANTI-LIN/ CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN. DROUGHT HAVING OVERALL EFFECT ON PRC ECONOMY; FOREIGN TRADERS REPORT UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 142163

CHINA BUYING LESS IN GENERAL AREAS BECAUSE FUNDS BEING USED FOR FOOD PURCHASES. HONAN RECORD HARVEST SEEN CONFIRMING CLAIMS THAT CHINA IS WELL ON WAY TO CONQUERING ITS TRADITIONAL ENEMY, NATURE; IN PREVIOUS YEARS, KIND OF DROUGHT NOW BEING EXPERIENCED WOULD MEAN WIDESPREAD FAMINE (JOC).

10. LEADER OF NON-OFFICIAL INDIAN GROUP THAT VISITED PRC RECENTLY EXPRESSES HOPE FOR IMPROVED SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS, QUOTES YEH CHIEN-YING SAYING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES "CANNOT REMAIN DEADLOCKED FOREVER" (WP).

JAPAN

11. NYT'S BUTTERFIELD REPORTS JAPAN'S ARCHAIC FARMING AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM INTENSIFIES INFLATION. EXCEPT FOR GOVT. SUBSIDIZED RICE, ACCORDING TO FOOD COMPANY EXECUTIVE, WOULD BE MORE EFFICIENT IN LONG-RUN TO CONVERT FARMLAND TO HOUSING OR INDUSTRIAL USE, IMPORT ALL BEEF AND VEGETABLES. FARMING UNECONOMICAL BECAUSE OF SMALL SIZE OF FARMS, IMPORT OF FEED GRAIN

AND FERTILIZERS, AND LABYRINTHINE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, SOMETIMES REQUIRING MINIMUM OF EIGHT STEPS BETWEEN FARM AND MARKET WITH CONSEQUENT INCREMENTS IN PRICE ALONG THE WAY.

12. NYT LONDON SAYS EVIDENCE EMERGED AT IWC MEETING THAT MEMBERS GIVING PRIORITY TO WHALE SURVIVAL OVER INDUSTRY INTERESTS. FOR FIRST TIME MORATORIUM SET BEFORE NUMBERS FALL SO LOW THAT NO LONGER FEASIBLE TO HUNT SPECIES UNDER BAN, AND IT APPEARS THAT JAPAN AND USSR WILL HONOR BAN ON FIN WHALES. THREATENED BOYCOTT SEEN AS FACTOR IN APPARENT JAPANESE ACQUIESCENCE, ALTHOUGH PERIOD FOR LODGING OBJECTIONS REMAINS.

NEW ZEALAND

13. JOC REPORTS NZ'S INDEPENDENT MONETARY AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL HAS RECOMMENDED CONSIDERATION OF DEVALUATION IF DECLINE IN EXPORT GROWTH RATE CONTINUES; UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 142163

AND NO REVERSAL IN TREND SEEN FOR AT LEAST 6 MONTHS. NZ DEVALUATION NOT LINKED WITH SIMILAR AUSTRALIAN ONE COULD HAVE DEFLATIONARY EFFECT, BUT WOULD HURT MANUFACTURERS WHO BUILT UP EXPORT TRADE UNDER BILATERAL A-NZ FREE TRADE AGREEMENT.

14. NZ'S LABOR GOVT ALTERS 94 OF 106 CLAUSES IN PROPOSED COMPULSORY SUPERANNUATION LEGISLATION, DESIGNED TO ENSURE ALL WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS HAVE PENSION AFTER RETIREMENT (JOC).

PAPUA/NEW GUINEA

15. CSM'S SOUTHERLAND REPORTS PROTESTS FROM STUDENTS AND HOUSEWIVES HAVE HELPED HALT DRIFT TOWARD LUXURIOUS LIVING BY HIGH PNG OFFICIALS. GOVT AGREES TO FREEZE HIGH-LEVEL SALARIES, SELL RESORT RESERVED FOR CABINET MINISTERS, TIGHTEN UP ON OVERSEAS TRAVEL. WHILE CHIEF MINISTER SOMARE ADOPTED FROM BEGINNING A RELATIVELY AUSTERE LIFESTYLE, HE WAS NOT VERY SUCCESSFUL IN IMPOSING IT ON COLLEAGUES.

GENERAL

16. IMF STUDIES SHOW RATE OF INCREASE IN MONEY SUPPLY, LINKED TO WORSENING OF INFLATIONARY PRESSURE, REMAINS HIGH IN JAPAN--THOUGH LESS STEEP THAN EARLIER PERIOD --S. KOREA, AND MALAYSIA OVER RECENT 12 MONTH SPAN, WITH TURNABOUT TO RISE IN RATE IN AUSTRALIA. PRESSURES--UNEMPLOYMENT, HIGHER OIL PRICES, AND ACCELERATING PAY DEMANDS--SEEM CERTAIN TO LIMIT

ATTEMPTS TO CURB EXPANSION (MALABRE, WSJ).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

CAMBODIA/VIETNAM

17. CHITRIB'S KIRK IN PP (JUNE 22) CITES FORMER CAMBODIAN COMMUNIST SOLDIER, WHO DEFECTED TO GKR IN JAN. AND NOW LIVES IN REFUGEE CAMP, AS SAYING ARVN SOLDIERS SELL ARMS, AMMO, AND OTHER SUPPLIES UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 142163

TO COMMUNIST TROOPS THROUGH BAVET. EVERYDAY, DOZEN SVN TRUCKS DISGORGE CARGO THERE UNDER SUPERVISION OF ARVN OFFICERS. INFORMANT SAYS HE PERSONALLY HAS WATCHED VIET AND KHMER COMMUNIST TROOPS BUY TRUCKS, ARTILLERY SHELLS, RIFLES, RADIO EQUIPMENT, CLAYMORE MINES AND OTHER WAR MATERIAL. UNIFORMED SVN OFFICERS, SOME AS HIGH RANKING AS COLONEL, CHATTED POLITELY AND DRANK BEER WITH COMMUNIST AGENTS ALSO WEARING UNIFORMS WHILE COMPLETING TRANSACTIONS. SOURCE ALSO SAY; TRADE WENT ON LITERALLY UNDER EYES OF S VIET REGIONAL FORCE TROOPS. BUSIEST TRADING PLACE KNOWN AS "CENTRAL MARKET," SEVERAL HUNDRED METERS BEHIND S VIET CUSTOMS BUILDING, NOW UNOCCUPIED. OTHERS WERE "SKY MARKET," WHICH OPERATED IN MIDDLE OF HWY 1 BETWEEN CUSTOMS BUILDING AND REGIONAL FORCES' COMPOUND, AND "UPPER MARKET," UP THE ROAD ON CAMBODIAN SIDE. DEFECTOR HEARD OF FANK OFFICERS SELLING ARMS TO KR BUT CLAIMS S VIETS WERE BIGGEST SOURCE OF MATERIAL, AT LEAST IN EAST CAMBODIA AREA.

KIRK SAYS WHILE SOURCE TREATED STORY AS COMMON KNOWLEDGE, US OFFICIALS CONCEDED THEY WERE UNAWARE OF WHAT WAS GOING ON; ADDS NEVER BEFORE HAS THERE BEEN ANY INDICATION OF THE EXTENT OF THE TRADE, WHICH DEFECTOR SAID IS SUFFICIENT TO MEET NEEDS OF KR IN AT LEAST TWO PROVINCES OF EASTERN CAMBODIA. NOTES THAT BAVET HISTORICALLY HAS BEEN SITE OF THRIVING BLACK MARKET; RECALLS BEING THERE 4 YEARS AGO PERSONALLY WITNESSING ILLICIT TRADE IN NON-MILITARY GOODS FROM ROOF OF CAMBODIAN CUSTOMS BUILDING.

CAMBODIA

18. FROM PP, CHITRIB'S KIRK (JUNE 23) SAYS DEATH STRUGGLE FOR CAMBODIA SEEMS TO HAVE BROUGHT OUT WORST CHARACTERISTICS IN PRINCIPAL PARTICIPANTS: CRUELTY BY KR, VENALITY AND INSOUCIANCE BY PROFITEERING OFFICIALS. DOCUMENTATION OF EITHER IS NECESSARILY SECOND-HAND, BUT ONE NEED NOT SEARCH LONG FOR CREDIBLE DESCRIPTIONS OF EXTREMES OF BOTH CRUELTY/CORRUPTION.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 142163

NOTES THAT US DIPLOMATS TEND TO APOLOGIZE FOR CORRUPTION WITH SHIBBOLETH THAT "IT GOES ON IN ALL ASIAN COUNTRIES," BUT KIRK COMMENTS THAT IT SEEMS WORSE IN CAMBODIA THAN ELSEWHERE.

KIRK REMARKS THAT PP ELITE DO NOT SEEM REALLY TO HAVE AWAKENED TO POSSIBILITY THAT THEIR CUSHY EXISTENCE MAY BE SERIOUSLY ENDANGERED. IT IS AS IF THEY STILL IMAGINE THEMSELVES IN THE UNREAL DREAM WORLD OF FRENCH COLONIAL ERA, IN WHICH THE FRENCH NOT ONLY PAMPERED AND PAID THEM, BUT PROTECTED THEM FROM VIET AND THAI MIL INTRUSION. IT HELPS EXPLAIN SQUISHY SOFTNESS AND MORAL DEGRADATION OF CAMBODIAN LEADERSHIP TODAY. IT IS IN RESPONSE TO THAT SOFTNESS AND DEGRADATION THAT KR FORCES ADOPTED POLICY OF CRUELTY; IT IS TO WIPE OUT ALL CORRUPTED ELEMENTS, KR COMMANDERS TELL VILLAGERS, THAT THEY MUST EXECUTE THE GUILTY ONES.

EXPLOITED CITIZENS OF GOVT-HELD ENCLAVES AND COMMUNIST-DOMINATED COUNTRYSIDE ARE THE LOSERS EVERYDAY, REGARDLESS OF WHO FINALLY "WINS" WAR.

CHINA

19. USN AND WR WASHINGTON WHISPERS COLUMN SAYS U.S. EXPERTS ON CHINA ARE WARNING SECRETARY KISSINGER AGAINST ANY NEW DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES THAT WOULD REQUIRE A FIRM COMMITMENT BY PEKING. THE CHINA WATCHERS SAY THAT IN THE PRESENT CHAOTIC SITUATION ON LEADERSHIP, THE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT IS "PARALYZED" AS FAR AS FOREIGN POLICY IS CONCERNED.

20. LAT'S ELEGANT (JUNE 28) IN HONG KONG SAYS CONTENDING PRC FACTIONS HAVE REPEALED CONFUCIUS' GOLDEN RULE, WHILE APPARENTLY AFFIRMING DOCTRINE OF ORIGINAL SIN. RELATES ANTI-CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN TO FAILURE TO STAMP OUT "OLD CUSTOMS, MANNERS AND WAYS OF THOUGHT" BASED ON TEACHINGS OF CONFUCIUS AND LAO TZE. CONFUCIUS' GOLDEN RULE "DO NOT DO UNTO OTHERS WHAT YOU WOULD NOT HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU," FROM CHRISTIAN GOLDEN UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 142163

RULE, IS DENOUNCED IN LATEST ISSUE OF RED FLAG AS PSYCHOLOGICAL TRICK DEvised BY "LORDS AND MASTERS" OF BAD OLD DAYS TO KEEP MASSES IN DOCILE SUBJECTION. RED FLAG OFFERS ITS OWN VERSION, "DO UNTO OTHERS

AS YOU WOULD NOT HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU." MORE COLLOQUIALLY
NEW SLOGAN MIGHT READ "DO OTHERS BEFORE THEY DO

YOU." RF CLAIMS HIT-FIRST TACTIC SAVED CHINA IN
WAR AGAINST JAPAN. ELEGANT NOTES ALSO THAT PEOPLE'S
DAILY PUBLISHED SEVERAL ARTICLES DENOUNCING "THREE
CHARACTER CLASSICS", OPENING SENTENCE OF WHICH READS:
"MAN IS AT BIRTH BY NATURE GOOD." PD SAYS BOTH
"THREE CHARACTER CLASSIC" AND ITS COMPLEMENTARY
"THOUSAND CHARACTER BOOK," WERE DESIGNED TO "DEFRAUD
AND ANESTHETIZE" THE MASSES FOR BENEFIT OF THE RULING
CLASSES. ELEGANT NOTES BELIEF THAT MAN IS BY NATURE GOOD
WAS MAJOR OBSTACLE TO CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES, WHOSE
DOCTRINE TAUGHT THAT MAN WAS BORN EVIL AND, THEREFORE,
HAD TO BE LED AWAY FROM EVIL. COMMENTS THAT NO
ONE HAS YET RISEN IN PEKING TO POINT OUT THAT PD
HAS THUS ENDORSED THE CHRISTIAN CONCEPT AND, FOR
THAT MATTER, THE VIEWS OF LAO TZE, THE SAGE OF TAOISM,
WHO DECLARED THAT "MAN IS AT HIS BIRTH BY NATURE
BAD."

ELEGANT'S NOTES ALSO THAT RED FLAG'S REVERSAL OF
GOLDEN RULE VIOLATES COMMUNIST TEACHING. MAO KNOWS
THAT THE CHINESE POSSESSED NO FAR-REACHING SOCIAL
CONSCIENCE BEFORE HIS ADVENT. FOR TWO CENTURIES
THEY WERE SO BUSY FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL THAT THEY
LACKED THE TIME, INCLINATION OR ENERGY TO WORRY
ABOUT HELPING THEIR NEIGHBORS. MAO HAS THEREFORE
STRESSED TIME AND TIME AGAIN THAT ALL CHINESE MUST
"UNSELFISHLY SERVE THE PEOPLE." ALTHOUGH THERE
IS NO WORD FOR LOGIC IN CHINESE, THAT DOESN'T MEAN
THE CHINESE FACTIONS ARE ACTING ILLOGICALLY. TO
THE CONTRARY, THEY ARE PURSUING LOGIC TO ITS ULTIMATE
EXTREME OR ABSURDITY.

21. UPI'S MARGARET JONES (LAT JUNE 28) IN PEKING
DISCUSSES DINING OUT FOR FOREIGNERS. USUAL PROCEDURE
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 142163

IS TO RING UP RESTAURANT AT LEAST DAY BEFORE, ANNOUNCE
ONE'S NATIONALITY AND NUMBER OF GUESTS AND DISCUSS
MENU WITH COOK. PRICES ARE SET IN ADVANCE. TWO
YEARS AGO GOOD MEAL COULD BE HAD FOR SIX YUAN A
HEAD, FOR MEAL OF SIX TO EIGHT DISHES. NOW ONE
WOULD EXPECT TO PAY MINIMUM OF FIFTEEN YUAN A HEAD.
WHERE AVERAGE URBAN WAGE IS 60 YUAN A MONTH, QUOTED
ALTERNATIVES OF 20, 30, AND 40 YUAN A HEAD, SEEM
OUTRAGEOUS, BUT CHINESE ARE NOT CHARGED THESE PRICES.
BLAME FOR INFLATIONARY SPIRAL IS PUT ON JAPANESE
EMBASSY AND USLO. JAPANESE DEMAND SEAFOOD AND HIGH-
PRICED DELICACIES AND AMERICANS, ACCORDING TO LOCAL
LEGEND, SAY BLITHELY WHEN ASKED WHAT PRICE THEY

ARE SERVED IN SEPARATE ROOMS UPSTAIRS WHERE, WITH
A BIT OF LUCK, DECOR WILL BE "QUITE STUNNINGLY
AWFUL." SISCO

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